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MONTANA DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION NEWSLETTER

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ADMINISTRATOR

Volume 20 Number 4

November 1992

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NOTES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

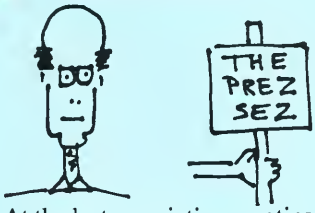
It's me again and sorry to say, I must provide an update on the same worn out subject --- budgets.

First, the good news. I am happy to say that we have a lot of great people doing a lot of great things. Just a few examples --- the district representatives are working with the local emergency management personnel on exercises, plans, training and a multitude of other things that keep us busy. Bob Musselman continues to get more and more people involved in earthquake mitigation, and he even gets to pass out federal year-end funds. Fred Cowie continues to work the HAZMAT issues, to include getting more funding to support our operations. Chris and NancyJo stay busy with more exceptional training and planning for the next Governor's Conference. Dan McGowan is getting everyone excited about crisis counselling. Larry Akers is busy managing several projects to include development of a Governor's Emergency Management Guide and briefing. Jim Anderson keeps everything on track by handling the everyday situations and keeping them from becoming problems. Ken and Gail work overtime to keep me out of jail, while providing new figures, on a daily basis, for each new budget submission requirement. Homer keeps busy with SCM, EBS, DC&W, RACES, automation upgrade and new antennas. Dan Lieberg has developed a five-year plan framework and timetable so that we can make our long-range plan a reality before the next CCA cycle. The other Jim and Dan (Brown and Poore)continue to work on instruments and do other projects that make everyone else look good. Jim Kujawa spends more time in the office, but he seems to enjoy getting involved in more programs as the SCM Engineer, plus helping me with my underground storage tank. Marlys and Monique answer our silly questions, do our "immediate" requirements, keep us humored and help us with our computers. I come to the office most days.

Now for the bad news --- budgets. Drastic cuts in the State Fiscal Year 1993 budget dictated that we conduct a reduction-in-force of two people in October of this year. We expect even more cuts in the future. As of today, we have not been able to get the earthquake program into the Governor's Budget for State Biennium 94-95. The prognosis is that we will be required to fight very hard for adequate funding in the 94-95 biennium as the budget is developed and passes through the legislative process. We have not yet received our FY 93 federal budget, but reliable information indicates that we should get enough to keep all of our programs going for another year. Your guess for FY 94 and beyond is as good as mine, and I don't have time to speculate.

We will keep you informed as we get more factual information.

-Bill Good



At the last association meeting in Bozeman, August 31, we decided to lobby our legislators to support funding the Montana Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program and the Montana Association of Planners revision of the subdivision review law.

The earthquake program will disappear if it is not funded, and since a major earthquake is the biggest disaster that could hit this state, it is imperative that the program is funded. Bob Musselman has been doing a superb job of assisting counties in reducing the earthquake threat, and we'd hate to lose this important program because the state does not match 50 percent of the FEMA dollars.

The Montana Association of Planners (MAP) asked for, and received, our support to lobby the legislature for a revision of the subdivision review act. Currently, any development over 20 acres is not reviewed by a county planner. This obviously has an impact on public safety, since there is no review for flood-plains, hazardous material sites, wildland fire danger, or just access for emergency responders.

MAP has not yet determined what the minimum acreage will be for review, but we do know that it will be more than 20. Similar bills in the past have been killed in the legislature due to skillful lobbying of opponents. So we need your support.

The best way to ask your legislators to consider your request is through personal visits, phone calls or letters. Make sure that your proposal is well thought out beforehand, and keep it brief. This will be appreciated by your legislator, and they are more apt to consider your plea if it is concise.

Public safety is our business, which is why we want to keep our valuable earthquake program and revise the subdivision law. Call me at 447-8285 if you have any questions concerning this request.

The executive board will meet at the DES EOC on November 19 to discuss the Governor's Conference.

District VP's - address our standards at your next meeting and send me your minutes. All districts should try to meet quarterly to keep that emergency ball rolling right along.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

-Paul N. Spengler

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Paul Spengler is the current president of the Montana DES Coordinators Association.

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HAZMAT MATTERS

Rumor Control: It is true that the HazMat Program, personnel and funding, currently managed by the Emergency Management side of FEMA is being transferred to the Fire Administration side of FEMA. Both sides tell us that everything will be "business as usual" for federal fiscal year 1993 while the administration/management transfer is worked out.

EPA-TSCA Grant: Under EPA's Toxic Substance Control Act, DES, designated by the SERC, has received a $44,017 grant to develop a HazMat Annex planning process applicable to

Montana's "frontier" jurisdictions, county and tribal. The activities prescribed in the grant will deal mostly with Districts II and IV, and Fred Cowie, Bill Bishop and Norm Parrent will be the key DES Division personnel involved. However, since this is the first EPA grant for SERC or DES, the administrative details and starting date of activities have yet to be worked out.

DOT-HMTUSA Grants: The grant side of DOT, RSPA, is considerably behind schedule in delivering ready-to-use, user-friendly grant packages under Section 117A of HMTUSA. Also, many of the provisions which are discriminatory against rural and frontier states (such as the reimbursement part) are being challenged by other western states and the outcome is unclear at this time. The Training Committee of the SERC is preparing a comprehensive six-year grant proposal based on the hazmat questionnaire returns and the guidelines now available.

Anyone wanting copies of the current 1990 orange DOT Emergency Guide, contact: Fred Cowie, Dan Lieberg or Monique Lay.

-Fred Cowie

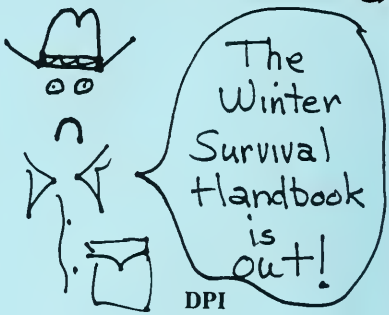
Fort Peck Tribes

The Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes applied for and received SARA Title III training funds. One of the requirements to receive the monies is to conducted a hazardous materials exercise. Debi Madison, the Tribes' SARA coordinator, invited the SERC to come to the reservation and present the Exercise Design Course. By doing the course the exercise requirement was meet.

Forty-one participants from three indian tribes, five counties, private industries, and the state attended. Fourteen different disciplines of the emergency management family were represented. Mayor Butch Olsen of Wolf Point and Roosevelt County Sheriff John Grainger represented the chief elected officials. All four of the functional exercises were realist situations the counties, cities, and the tribes will have to address in their planning process.

The participants appreciated the opportunity to attend and felt it gave a definite boost to the TERC\LEPC planning effort.

-Chris Christensen



DPI

The Disaster Preparedness Improvement (DPI) section set out to develop a crisis counseling plan for the State of Montana. The plan's objective is to provide counseling services for disaster victims. Research of the subject indicated providing such a service was the second step in a two step process.

The first step involved critical incident stress debriefing to identify the individuals which may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and require some type of crisis counseling. The scope of the project now entails developing a statewide plan to organize and train critical incident stress debriefing teams and crisis counselors across the state.

The project will benefit the communities on a daily basis as the trained professionals sharpen their skills by aiding responders and victims of

single traumatic incidents. In the event of a large scale disaster or emergency, there will be a cadre of professionals to call upon for quick response to the affected community or area.

This project is a bit of a different twist from the norm of aiding disaster victims in an attempt to replace or repair their material items. To date, the project has peaked the interest of private, local, state and federal agencies.

-Dan McGowan

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"The ERG"

Our office has just recently been notified that the 1993 version of the Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) will be published during the summer of 1993, if funded.

We would like to make distribution in the same manner as the previous two editions i.e. through our District Representatives to our local DES Coordinators to local emergency response agencies. We need help in identifying the total number of books we require. The form that we must fill out to justify our state allocation requests the following information:

"Please indicate the requested number of Emergency Response Guidebooks that will be distributed to the following groups:

1. Law Enforcement Agencies ___
2. Fire Service Agencies ___
3. Emergency Medical Services Agencies ___
4. Emergency Management Agencies ___
5. Other County Agencies ___
6. * Other State Government Agencies ___
7. * Training Agencies ___

* The State DES office will determine the numbers for this group.

We are asking local DES Coordinators to give our District Reps this information. The criteria DOT uses for distribution is one ERG per emergency response vehicle. Of course there are other places the ERG is needed, e.g. dispatch center; so please identify these as well. The information you provide us will be faxed to DOT and it will help them determine how many books they must print. We need this information by December 1, 1992. Thanks for the help.

-Dan Lieberg

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EARTHQUAKE GRANT PROGRAM TO CONTINUE

Due to the outstanding success of the grant program that was funded through the Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program this past year, Montana DES has decided to make funds available on a limited basis during FY 93.

The state received approximately $44,000 from the Congressional supplemental appropriation following the Loma Prieta quake of October 1989. This money was offered to interested parties in the highest hazard area of the state (Zone 3) which includes eleven counties in southwestern Montana.

These grants required a 25% soft match (in-kind) and were a huge success. The tally is not complete but the best estimate is that grantees matched the $44,000 state grant with over $200,000 of in-kind or hard cash matching funds.

These grants were awarded to counties, school districts, local planning agencies and the Earthquake Studies Office of the Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology in Butte. Earthquake plans, GIS maps, workshops for teachers and nonstructural earthquake hazard mitigation efforts were among the projects that were funded.

Turn backs of some supplemental appropriation funds and a modest increase in funding to the Earthquake Program for FY 93 has allowed us the opportunity to offer a limited number of small grants to those interested in the moderate hazard counties of Montana (Zone 2).

Details of this program will be provided to District Reps and DES coordinators in the eligible counties in early December. These grants should be in the ballpark of $1,500 to $2,000 and will require a 25% in-kind match. If you have any questions before formal notification contact Bob Musselman in Helena.

-Bob Musselman

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MONTANA STATE AND LOCAL EXERCISES

The end of FFY-92 brings the exercise program to a successful close. All reports (95-16's) have been collected, entered and reported to FEMA and the Exercise Stocking has been hung by the fireplace with care. Have you ever seen a fireplace hang a stocking? Scary...Statistically, exercises in Montana are on the upswing and have been during the last three years. It appears that we are depending more on our hazard analysis, updating our emergency operations plans, and testing those plans by conducting very meaningful exercises.

FFY-93 will end the projected 4-year exercise work plan. Meaning that this year affords us one last opportunity to play catch up with those "not completed" exercises.

A note of appreciation to everyone for a job well done this year. We learned a lot and applied what we learned. Our team is much better for it. Thanks.

-NancyJo Ilminen

FFY-92

TABLETOP	67
FUNCTIONAL	63
FULL SCALE	18
ACTUAL OCCURRENCE	3
TOTAL	151

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FFY-91

TABLETOP	67
FUNCTIONAL	46
FULL SCALE	15
ACTUAL OCCURRENCE	19
TOTAL	147

-NancyJo Ilminen

UPCOMING COURSES

Introduction to Emergency Management
Dec 7-11, 1992
Aladdin Inn
Helena, Montana

Hazmat: Level V
Dec 12-13, 1992 - Havre

-NancyJo Ilminen

PRAIRIE '92

"Prairie 92" occurred on October 3rd in Mildred, Montana, despite the horrendous winds that blew from dawn to dusk. The exercise began early, 6:00 AM for some responders. Because of the great travelling distance for some of the response agencies, emergency units were pre-positioned in a staging area in Mildred. The first call reporting a downed aircraft was received by the Prairie County Sheriff's Office approximately 9:00 AM. Needless to say, the ranchers and residents of Mildred were overwhelmed by the number of people and vehicles that arrived in their community. The restaurant, seating capacity of ten, sold enormous amounts of coffee, pie, and sloppy joes to the 100 plus responders who were more than eager to get in from the wind.

Within the half hour of play, the Mid-Rivers Telephone representative (at the staging area) received a call from Miles City requesting the return of their fire truck and ambulance due to an actual fire. This left some 'moulaged' victims wondering if they would be saved or not. But it all worked out.

Exercise play continued until 2:00 PM at which time everyone reported back to Terry for the debriefing. Lessons learned? The biggest lesson is the realization that it takes a team effort involving all disciplines to be able to deal with the incident. And there was a team effort not only to design and develop the exercise but also to conduct it. And was it handled well? Yes! Hats off to the Coordinator, Wes Plann and his "Design Team" and the great support from Norm Parrent, District Rep.

-NancyJo Ilminen

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES COURSE

Instructional Techniques was held July 14-17, in Billings at the Ramada Inn. Twenty three participants completed the course which was managed by Chris, Doug Friez, North Dakota, Ken Jorolimek, North Dakota, Dan Lieberg, State DES, and Clete Gregory, DES Pondera County. Bob Hite, FEMA Region VIII, Dan Poore and Marlys Cain, State DES, and Beth Zimmerman, UT assisted as facilitators for the teams. Everyone agreed that this was one of the best courses ever! Thanks to all who helped make this successful.

-NancyJo Ilminen

FALL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Basic Skills: Leadership and Influence, conducted September 1-3 in Bozeman at the City Center Motel. Twenty eight participants attended this course. Chris and Bill Bishop were assisted with instruction of the course with Karen Peake, private consultant in Helena. All three did an excellent job.

Basic Skills: Creative Financing, conducted September 1-3 in Bozeman at the City Center Motel with fourteen participants. Gloria Gregg, Montana State University joined forces with Bill Murray, Cascade County Coordinator, to instruct a great class. Congratulations and thanks are in order.

-NancyJo Ilminen

1993 GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE

The Governor's Conference of Disaster Preparedness for Public Officials is scheduled for February 24, 1993 at the Colonial Inn in Helena. Registration starts on Tuesday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m., and again Wednesday morning. During registration on Tuesday, there will be a No-Host social. Come early and meet and greet old and new friends.

PLEASE NOTE: The dates of the Governor's Conference/ Emergency Management Workshop has been scheduled a week later in February than in the past.

A letter will be sent in the next few weeks as to details and procedures for making Motel Reservations.

-Gail Dreher

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

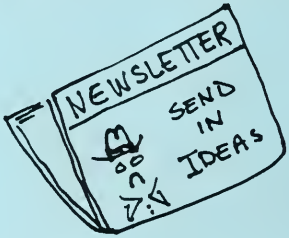
Mike Wenzel has been appointed the new DES Coordinator in Broadwater County. This appointment was made by the County Commissioners on Oct 20 and takes effect the 1st of November. Mike is the Pastor at the Townsend Faith Baptist Church and also a part time Deputy Sheriff.

-Jim Anderson

Jim Haslip, call sign K7CCZ, has decided to call it quits after serving for 27 years as the state RACES officer. Thanks Jim for all the hours of volunteer time and for making Montana's RACES organization a viable and effective resource. This is not a goodbye because Jim will continue to be active as a RACES volunteer.

A hearty welcome to Bruce Walters, call sign N7MVX, as the new state RACES officer. Bruce lives in Helena and has many years of Amateur radio experience. One of Bruce's goals is to meet with as many local amateur clubs and DES coordinators as possible during his travels throughout Montana.

-Homer Young



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The Montana Disaster and Emergency Services Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Disaster and Emergency Services Division. It is funded, in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Contributions of articles and ideas are welcome. Deadlines for submission are January 8--February issue, April 8--May issue, July 8--August issue and October 8--November issue.

The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. The articles in this newsletter do not constitute official policy. Questions regarding articles may be addressed to the DES Newsletter Editor.

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